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to the scholar, as based on the original sources and presenting the results in accordance with the most advanced ideals of history-writing. It may be said that this firm grasp of the subject is not so evident in the opening chapter. Although this gives copious references to the original sources, the citations from the secondary treatises are relatively more numerous, and it is only when we get into the body of the work, which is based firmly on the original material, that the real power of the author is shown. It is to be hoped that the author may change somewhat the distribution of the subject-matter when he comes to the principate so that we may have rather more of Augustus and his epoch-making reforms, at the expense of a curtailment of the history of the later Julian-Claudian dynasty. The literal-minded reviewer has some difficulty in making the connection between Blake's verse on page xiv and the body of the work. But these minor strictures are offered rather in deference to the theory that one of the functions of the critic is to criticize than with the thought of serious condemnation of the excellent piece of work that Dr. Greenidge has given us.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE.

*A Short History of England.* By EDWARD P. CHEYNEY, Professor of European History in the University of Pennsylvania. (Boston: Ginn and Company. 1904. Pp. xvi, 695.)

THE title of this new text-book of English history inevitably suggests J. R. Green's well-known *Short History of the English People*, and there are, indeed, quite a few points of similarity between the two books. While not going so far as Green in treating the literary and social sides of England's past, Professor Cheyney has carefully avoided the "drum and trumpet" element, and his text will be particularly welcome to those teachers who are seeking to emphasize the economic and institutional aspects of English history. The book is well planned throughout, and although about one hundred pages longer than the average text-book of history in this country, its easy style and well-diluted facts should make it possible for the pupils to cover the whole of it in one year.

In a brief preface the author gives us the viewpoint from which he approaches his narrative. In the first place, he would make certain fundamental facts of physical and political geography, of race, and of early institutions "absolutely clear and familiar"; secondly, he would include in the narrative only such facts as were significant; thirdly, he would cling closely to the thread of English history; and lastly, he would omit all "statements and allusions the significance of which could not be explained in the book". A careful examination of the contents of the history will show that the author has consistently followed the plan outlined in the preface. The first two chapters, on "The Geography of England" and "Prehistoric and Celtic Britain", are excellent of their kind. The third chapter, on "Roman Britain", gives

one of the fullest and best descriptions of that interesting period to be found in any school or college history, while the two following chapters, on "Early" and "Later" Saxon England, give an admirable account of early institutions and government. Beginning with the reign of Alfred, however, and continuing through the remainder of the book there is a noticeably vague treatment of the political narrative. We feel often that the author is making too much go on behind the scenes and leaving the stage bare of players and of action. In the writer's opinion too many important names and events have been omitted in the endeavor to include only the significant ones. In his treatment of England's relations with the continent Professor Cheyney has on the whole been very successful. The first part of the Hundred Years' War is especially well handled, and the continental wars of the eighteenth century are judiciously dealt with. In regard to the omission of statements and allusions which could not be fully explained in the book, the wisdom of the author's policy can be seriously questioned; for a history textbook that does not arouse the pupil's interest and desire to know more than the text gives only half fulfils its mission, and is likely to present a rather colorless narrative. The school-boy mind is always an inquisitive one, and much of the interest in history study is kept alive by the explanation and discussion of matters referred to in the text but not always fully explained.

Space will not permit us to touch on many very commendable features of Professor Cheyney's book, but reference must be made to the excellent pedagogical apparatus it possesses. Numerous sketch-maps and full-page colored maps, adequate genealogical tables, well-selected pictures and illustrations, and last, but not least, most serviceable bibliographies, of a critical character and arranged topically, add greatly to its value as a text and work of reference. From printer's and other errors the work is remarkably free, and such as do exist will be easily found and corrected. The index, though omitting a few names of persons and places mentioned in the text, is on the whole adequate and satisfactory.

NORMAN MACLAREN TRENHOLME.

*A History of the United States and its People from their Earliest Records to the Present Time.* In twelve volumes. Volume I. By ELROY MCKENDREE AVERY. (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company. 1904. Pp. xxx, 405.)

THE author and the publishers of this book are to be congratulated on the production of a work that is so handsome in form, so readable, and comparatively so free from the errors and florid rhetoric found in most popular histories. In size and weight the volume is somewhat awkward to handle, and opinions might differ about the artistic merits of the conventionalized patriotism depicted on the cover, but in other respects certainly the exhibition of the book-maker's handicraft is ad-